

Q

What is that USB FLASH DRIVE THAT CAME WITH THE TVP SOFTWARE DVD?

A

The USB FLASH DRIVE that came with DVD is called a “dongle” and it contains the license code for YOUR COPY of TVP

It should be understood that the dongle IS the license . **DO NOT LOSE THE DONGLE.**

It has come to my attention in the past that there has occasionally been some misunderstanding by some students with regards to the dongle/license used for TVPaint Animation software.

The main point is this:

the dongle IS the license . **DO NOT LOSE THE DONGLE.**

Some may ask: Why is a dongle necessary to run the software ? --

Because of rampant software piracy software companies (especially smaller software companies like TVP) must use some form of protection to keep their software from being made available for free as a cracked version on bit torrent file sharing sites. Using a dongle is how TVP (and many other companies) solve this problem.

(I should also just mention now in case anyone is unclear on this point : it is the official policy of the Academy of Art University *not* to tolerate the use of cracked/illegal software.)

The dongle system is not perfect , but in many ways it is the most flexible. It allows you to have TVPaint installed on multiple computers , say on a work or school computer and also on your home computer, or on a PC desktop tower at home and also on a Macbook laptop that you use when you travel. The dongle activates TVPaint installed on any computer and allows you to use the full version of TVPaint.

The downside of the dongle system is as I mentioned above : *the dongle IS the license* . If you lose the dongle you would have to purchase a new license of TVPaint and be issued a new dongle. Each dongle is unique.

This is covered in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the TVPaint website:

http://www.tvpaint.com/v2/content/article/support/faq_qa_display.php?faq_category_id=30

[FAQ about Dongles and Codes](#): Keep track of your TVPaint dongle and don't lose it.

I should mention that I've been using TVPaint now for 6 years and I have never lost my dongle. Just use common sense and treat it as seriously as you would treat keeping track of your car keys or your wallet or your mobile phone. The only reason I bring this up now is that the topic came up recently on the TVP Users Forum and I have also talked to a few students in past semesters who seemed unaware that if they lost their dongle it is not an easy/cheap item to replace. Just because it looks like a cheap USB thumbdrive don't think it's as easy as that to replace.

Once again: the dongle *IS* essentially the license for TVPaint. **Don't lose it. DN**